

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, March 7, 2025

Pack 'em in

From the [Bruin](#):

...Melissa Faybik, an assistant director of housing services, updated students on UCLA Housing's Jan. 21 announcement stating that it will convert most on-campus rooms to triple occupancy rooms. Faybik said the change is temporary and will add 1,000 beds to on-campus dorms and off-campus apartments combined.

Faybik said the university's guaranteed housing agreement and increasing return rates for those in the dorms sparked the change of doubles into triples...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/03/05/on-campus-housing-council-town-hall-unveils-changes-to-housing-dining>.

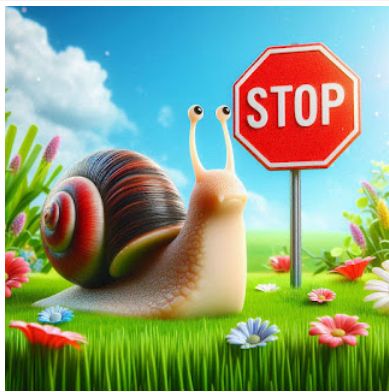


Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: enrollment, UCLA

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Funding Slowed and Stopped



From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

Although federal judges have temporarily blocked many of President Donald Trump's plans to overhaul the government through executive action, academic researchers who rely on federal grants say business is still far from usual. Eager to keep working uninterrupted on time-sensitive projects—including medical research on cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's disease—university scientists are instead caught in a crossfire of conflicting guidance, with some still waiting on funding. And as Trump's second term takes shape, many are uncertain if their life's work will continue as planned

or get derailed as part of the president's crusade against alleged "waste, fraud and abuse" of taxpayer money and so-called woke ideology...

In the six weeks since taking office, the Trump administration has put out new orders nearly every day, including now-blocked funding freezes and a ban on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Officials at the National Institutes of Health have largely stopped awarding new grants, grinding a \$47 billion operation to a near halt. And as the administration cuts staff and spending at the NIH, NSF and beyond, universities and researchers are bracing for more disruptions...

It may take weeks, months or even years for the litigation to play out, but university scientists are already feeling the effects of Trump's pushback against the courts...

Advisory councils haven't met since the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the NIH, issued a communications freeze for its agencies on Jan. 22. As a result, meeting notices for the councils, which typically convene three times a year in January, May and September, haven't been posted to the Federal Register at least 15 days in advance as required by law. It's not clear when the councils will resume. The delayed advisory councils aren't just holding up applications for new grants, which the NIH and the NSF—the third-largest federal funding source for university-led scientific research—are also reviewing for compliance with Trump's nebulous anti-DEI orders...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2025/03/03/researchers-remain-limbo-trump-battles-courts>.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations Resolution Against ICE Raids and Deportations](#)
- [Faculty Association Town Hall on Funding Cuts – March 13 at 6pm](#)
- [Once Again, It's Time for California to Lead](#)

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- [Where There are No Universities \(Guest Post\) - 3/31/2025](#)
- [Finding "Dear Colleagues" within the Autocratic Academy \(Guest Post\) - 3/28/2025](#)
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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:    

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UCLA Forecast



The UCLA Anderson Forecast met yesterday during a period in which lots of uncertainties are radiating out of Washington, DC. Thus, the range of uncertainty around the forecast itself is wide. Nonetheless, the show must go on, and it did:

The California Economy

Much of the story currently being told in regard to the California economy is rooted in immigration. Immigration policy will likely have two effects on California.

The first will be the withdrawal of millions of undocumented workers from the U.S. labor force — including in California — either through the deportation process underway or because such workers voluntarily leave jobs that put them at high risk of deportation. The current UCLA Anderson Forecast report for California assumes such deportations will commence and be carried out as repeatedly promised by the current administration since the beginning of the election campaign. Studies have shown that past incidence of mass deportation decreased the number of undocumented workers, but it also decreased the rate of employment in the remaining population.

The second effect of immigration policy involves H1B visas issued to workers in the tech industry. The emphasis the new administration is expected to place on growth in technology suggests that H1B visas will benefit California's economy.

Three important factors will make meeting California's need for more housing challenging. First, deportations will deplete the construction workforce. The loss of workers the industry relies on for installing drywall, flooring, roofing and finishing, for example, will directly diminish production of single-family and smaller (non-high-rise) multifamily developments.

The second factor relates to persistent inflation in the U.S. The Federal Reserve is much less likely to lower the federal funds rate with the trend in consumer inflation moving away from their 2.0% target. This will increase the cost of funds for construction loans and, therefore, the cost of new construction.

The third factor relates to the tariff policy of the Trump administration. The source of building materials is international, with key inputs such as lighting and electrical fixtures and appliances originating in China. A 20% or more increase in the cost of these inputs will increase the cost of construction and further limit the demand for newly built homes. Moreover, nearly 70% of U.S. lumber imports come from Canada, and 71% of gypsum imports (the primary component of drywall) come from Mexico.

The California economy is forecasted to grow at about the same rate as the U.S. in 2025 and 2026, and slightly faster in 2027. The unemployment rate for the first quarter of this year is expected to average 5.5%, and the average for 2025, 2026 and 2027 is expected to be 5.7%, 5.2% and 4.8%, respectively.

The current forecast for 2025, 2026 and 2027 is for total employment growth rates to be 0.5%, 1.2% and 1.1%. Non-farm payroll jobs are expected to grow at a 1.1%, 0.9% and 1.7% rate during the same three years. Real personal income is forecast to grow by 2.5% in 2025, 2.4% in 2026 and 2.9% in 2027. Higher interest rates, shortages of construction labor and the rebuilding of damaged and destroyed homes lowered California's residential construction forecast from December. Permitted new units are expected to number 102,000 in 2025 and grow to 127,000 by the end of 2027. This rate of home building means that the private sector's prospects for building out of the housing affordability problem over the next three years are nil.

Full release including the national forecast at <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events/increased-uncertainties-persist-new-administration-enacts-economic-agenda>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:    

The 15% Cap - Part 6

From The Hill:

A federal judge on Wednesday issued an order temporarily blocking the Trump administration from imposing a 15 percent cap on research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), finding that plaintiffs had a high likelihood of succeeding on the merits of their argument.

U.S. District Court Judge Angel Kelley granted a nationwide preliminary injunction on the Trump White House's plans to set a 15 percent cap on payments for indirect costs for NIH grant recipients. These funds go towards



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Contributors

-  California Policy Issues
-  Toby Higbie
-  UCLA Faculty Association

administrative costs, facility fees and paying support staff...

"Considering the irreparable harm likely to befall similarly situated nonparties, the chaos that would result both for institutions and NIH from a patchwork of injunctions, the diffuse nature of the Plaintiffs, and the nature of the suit, a nationwide preliminary injunction is the appropriate and reasonable remedy," wrote Kelley.

Full story at <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/5178800-federal-judge-presses-pause-nih-funding-cuts/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [health care](#), [politics](#)

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

It takes time



The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of the US Department of Education issued a frequently-asked-questions release regarding its anti-DEI enforcement procedures last week. A key part indicates how the OCR will process complaints. It seems to be a time-consuming process:

...If OCR determines that a school failed to comply with the civil rights laws that it enforces, OCR will

contact the school and will attempt to secure its willingness to negotiate a voluntary resolution agreement. If the school agrees to resolve the complaint, OCR and the school will negotiate a written resolution agreement to be signed by the school that describes the specific remedial actions it will take to address the area(s) of noncompliance identified by OCR. OCR will monitor implementation of the resolution agreement's terms. If a school is unwilling to negotiate a resolution agreement, OCR will inform the school of the consequences, which may result in OCR initiating enforcement through administrative proceedings or referring the case to the Department of Justice for judicial proceedings...

Source: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/03/03/education-dept-shares-faq-document-about-dei-guidance>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:35 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Upcoming Subway Warning for Late Evening



Note: Yours truly cannot resolve the contradiction in the notice below. Is it March 7-8 or March 14-15? Either way, he suggests staying away.

Utility Shutdown Westwood Blvd and Wilshire Blvd

Summary

The water utility for the 10900 Wilshire Bl building is anticipated to shut down from **March 7 to March 8**. The work supports the construction of the future Westwood/UCLA Station. Three eastbound lanes will be restricted on Wilshire Boulevard between Gayley Avenue and Westwood Boulevard, and the left-turn pockets will be restricted for westbound Westwood Boulevard.

When

Date: *March 14 through March 15*

Work hours: 9 pm, Friday to midnight, Saturday

Traffic Control:

- Wilshire Bl will be reduced to one lane for eastbound between Westwood Bl and Gayley Av.
- The left turn pockets on for eastbound traffic on Wilshire Bl and Westwood Bl will be closed.

- Intermittent closures of the crosswalks will be necessary on the west closure.

Noteworthy:

All work has received the necessary permits and approvals.

Access to driveways, residences & businesses will always be maintained unless notified in advance.

Access for pedestrians will be maintained outside of construction zones.

Access for the Fire Department and emergency responders will be maintained.

Parking restrictions will be implemented in the immediate area of the work zone.

Construction is dynamic, and schedules are subject to change.

24/7 Hotline: 213-922-6934

Source: https://cloud.sfmtc.metro.net/UtilityShutdown_WestwoodWilshire.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:



Labels: [traffic](#), [UCLA](#)

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Whoops!



From the [Daily Bruin](#):

UCLA men's water polo recruited a player who has admitted to committing aggravated sexual battery, according to the Southern California News Group. The 17-year-old athlete was arrested in February 2024 and admitted in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court in November to aggravated sexual battery on two younger students as a high school student at Harvard-Westlake School, according to an investigation by SCNG.

...Jack Grover, head of the boys' water polo program at Harvard-Westlake and a former UCLA men's water polo assistant coach, is under investigation by the United States Center for SafeSport – a nonprofit that aims to prevent sexual abuse in youth sports – for failing to immediately report the sexual misconduct, according to SCNG...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2025/03/04/ucla-mens-water-polo-recruit-admits-to-aggravated-sexual-battery>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [10:55 AM](#) No comments:



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